

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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R 301749Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5367

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 2960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, EGEN, EC, BR

SUBJECT: THE BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE IN ECUADOR

REF: STATE 15350 (23JAN 75)

1. SUMMARY: ECUADOR IS ONE OF ONLY TWO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE A COMMON BORDER WITH BRAZIL, AND BRAZIL THEREFORE LOOMS LESS LARGE HERE THAN ELSEWHERE ON THIS CONTINENT. BRAZIL APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE HERE, BUT IT IS STARTING FROM A RELATIVELY SMALL BASE, AND ECUADOR IS PROBABLY LESS IMPORTANT TO IT THAN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA. SYMPTOMATIC IS THE FACT THAT NO BRAZILIAN AIRLINE HAS FLIGHTS INTO ECUADOR -- THE ONLY COUNTRY IN SOUTH AMERICAN WITHOUT SUCH SERVICE. BRAZIL HAS SHOWED SIGNS OF INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE
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ROAD OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC THROUGH ECUADOR, AND THE

BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE HAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED AERIAL SURVEYS FOR SUCH A ROUTE; IN ADDITION, A BRAZILIAN FIRM HAS WON THE CONTRACT FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE QUITO-GUAYAQUIL EXPRESSWAY, A POTENTIAL LINK IN SUCH A ROUTE. OTHER BRAZILIAN ENTERPRISES ARE ACTIVE IN SEEKING CONTRACTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO SHARE IN ECUADOR'S NEWLY-FOUND OIL WEALTH. THE BRAZILIANS ARE HANDICAPPED BY LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, BUT OPERATE A WELL-RECEIVED CULTURAL CENTER, LANGUAGE STUDIES PROGRAM, SCHOOL, AND LIBRARY. THEY HAVE OFFERED TECHNICAL AND TRAINING SERVICES TO THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY, WHICH HAVE DOUBTLESS BEEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. THERE IS A RESPECT AND APPRECIATION IN ECUADOREAN SOCIETY FOR THE SIZE AND POTENTIAL POWER OF BRAZIL, AND CERTAIN FAMILY CONNECTIONS (FOR EXAMPLE, ECUADOR'S FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO JOSE LUCIO PAREDES' WIFE IS BRAZILIAN) HAVE NO DOUBT HAD THEIR INFLUENCE. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT ON THE WHOLE, ECUADOR'S ATTITUDES ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY HER ANDEAN PACT PARTNERS (ESPECIALLY COLOMBIA AND PERU), SECONDARILY BY THE INCREASING POLITICO-ECONOMIC POWER OF VENEZUELA AND ARGENTINA, AND PERHAPS THIRD BY MEXICO, RATHER THAN BY BRAZIL. BRAZIL'S INTERESTS HERE BY AND LARGE COMPLEMENT OUR OWN IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING, IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND EVEN STRATEGICALLY (THE ROAD ACROSS THE CONTINENT). OUR ONLY REAL COMPETITION IS IN THE COMMERCIAL ARENA, AND EVEN THERE, A CASE CAN BE MADE THAT MOST BRAZILIAN GAINS IN EXPORTS TO ECUADOR WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS (JAPAN, PERU, COLOMBIA) RATHER THAN THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL. THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IS NEITHER THE LARGEST NOR SMALLEST LATIN AMERICAN CHANCERY IN QUITO (CHILE'S, COLOMBIA'S, AND PERU'S ARE LARGER, MEXICO'S IS THE SAME SIZE), WITH 7 OFFICIALS ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST. THEY HAVE A COMMERCIAL OFFICE TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE EXPANDING MARKET HERE, AND A SUBSTANTIAL CULTURAL CENTER, DESCRIBED BELOW. BRAZIL HAS SOME MODEST MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS HERE, USEFUL IN EXPANDING THEIR INFLUENCE, ALSO DESCRIBED BELOW. THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING POLITICAL DISPUTES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT WE KNOW ABOUT, BUT

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ECUADOR DID CRITICIZE BRAZIL AT THE LATIN AMERICAN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY FOR NOT HAVING SIGNED THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, WHICH ESTABLISHED A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN LATIN AMERICA. ECUADOR HAS NO NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF HER OWN. THE BRAZILIANS SHARE MANY OF ECUADOR'S LAW OF THE SEA OBJECTIVES, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC (INCLUDING FISH) RESOURCES WITHIN A 200-MILE LIMIT. BRAZIL SUPPORTED ECUADOR IN ITS RECENT DISPUTE OVER THE

PREJUDICIAL ASPECTS OF THE US TRADE REFORM ACT, BUT DID NOT SEEM TO MAKE A BIG ISSUE OF IT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CLOSE COORDINATION ON POLICIES AND POSITIONS, ALTHOUGH BOTH PRESUMABLY COLLABORATE IN LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUPINGS AT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EXCHANGES THAT WE KNOW ABOUT, ALTHOUGH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN QUITO IN NOVEMBER 1974 FOR A MEETING OF HEMISPHERIC FOREIGN MINISTERS. WE ALSO KNOW THAT AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE PAST, THE ECUADORAN MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY ON THE INTERNAL BRAZILIAN POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM; ALTHOUGH THE GOE HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY STEPS TO REFORM ECUADOR'S POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE, ONE OBVIOUS MEANS OF CONDUCTING A TRANSITION FROM MILITARY RULE TO ELECTED GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BY MEANS OF THE FORMATION OF MILITARY-RUN OR AUTHORIZED POLITICAL PARTIES. AND FINALLY, ALTHOUGH ECUADOR FANCIES ITSELF AS SOMETHING OF A DEVELOPING LEADER IN THE THIRD WORLD, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THIS IS LARGELY A FORENSIC EXERCISE -- ECUADOR MAY BE AS LOUD AS (OR LOUNDER THAN) BRAZIL, BUT ITS SIZE AND POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY WEAKNESSES ARE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS TO THE WIELDING OF TRUE POWER.

3. ECONOMIC. BRAZIL'S MAJOR INFLUENCE IN THE ECUADOREAN ECONOMY HAS BEEN ITS AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF CONTRACTS FOR MAJOR PROJECTS AND COMMERCIAL SALES. TRADE VOLUME, ALTHOUGH INCREASING, IS STILL FAR BELOW THAT WITH COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, AND INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO US-ECUADOR TRADE OR THAT WITH ANY OF HER OTHER MAJOR PARTNERS:

EXPORTS (IN THOUSANDS OF US DOLLARS, FOB)
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TO 1971 1972 1973 JAN-JUN 74

BRAZIL 928 2724 3649 1389

COLOMBIA 7157 9955 21741 12198

PERU 5276 6375 33522 50886

US 82978 112651 189069 227680

JAPAN 36619 41249 27506 6136

WGER 22151 24328 35657 19366

TOTAL	199075	326292	409511	623004
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IMPORTS (IN THOUSANDS OF US DOLLARS)

FROM	1971	1972	1973
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BRAZIL	1268	2293	7734
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COLOMBIA	21216	17436	20228
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PERU	2040	2934	3682
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US	85152	80283	114613
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JAPAN	31889	28793	44526
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WGER	32461	34493	48137
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TOTAL	256953	249291	345706
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A SAO PAULO COMPANY (HYDROSERVICES ENGENHERIA PROJECTOS) HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN BIDDING FOR MAJOR PROJECTS IN ECUADOR, AND HAS WON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE QUITO-GUYAQUIL EXPRESSWAY (THE LARGEST, MOST AMBITIOUS, AND TECNICALLY MOST DIFFICULT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN ECUADOR'S HISTORY); 21 FIRMS, INCLUDING 10 AMERICAN
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ONES, COMPETED FOR THE CONTRACT, WHOSE FINAL COST WILL PROBABLY EASILY EXCEED HALF A BILLION DOLLARS. HYDRO-SERVICE HAS ALSO PREQUALIFIED FOR BIDDING ON THE COCA-QUIJOS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, THE LARGEST IN ECUADOR, WHOSE ESTIMATED COST WILL EXCEED \$100 MILLION; AND IT HAS THE CONTRACT FOR FINAL STUDIES OF THE JUBONES ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT. PETROBRAS, THE BRAZILIAN STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION, SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN ECUADOR'S ORIENTE IN 1972. THIS INTEREST FADED, BUT WAS REVIVED IN LATE 1974, AND LAST DECEMBER THE GENERAL MANAGER OF CEPE (THE CUADOREAN STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION) WENT TO BRAZIL WITH DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ON BIDDING FOR TRACTS IN THE ORIENTE. HE ALSO APPARENTLY TRIED TO INTEREST BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS IN THE PURCHASE OF PETROLEUM, BUT WAS TOLD BY PETROBRAS THAT ECUADOR'S PRICE WAS TOO HIGH. AS FAR AS WE KNO, NOTHING FURTHER HAS COME FROM EITHER THE PETROLEUM SALE OR EXPLORATIONS/CONCESSIONS OFFERS; THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY ATTACHE HERE TELLS US THE TERMS FOR EXPLORATION ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5368

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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4. MILITARY. PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AREA OF BRAZILIAN-ECUADOREAN COLLABORATION IS IN MILITARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE. A BRAZILIAN ARMY ENGINEERING COLONEL SERVES IN QUITO AS THEIR CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMISION MIXTA BRAZIL-ECUADOR, WORKING PRIMARILY ON JOINT TECHNICAL TRANSPORTATION STUDIES. THE BRAZILIAN NAVY PROVIDES A CAPTAIN AS INSTRUCTOR AT THE CUADOREAN NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, AND ANOTHER CAPTAIN AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN GUAYAQUIL. THE BRAZILIAN ARMY PROVIDES A COLONEL AS INSTRUCTOR AT THE INSTITUTO DE ALTOS ESTUDISO (ECUADOR'S EQUIVALENT TO OUR NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, MODELLED AFTER ITS BRAZILIAN COUNTERPART, THE ESCOLA SUPERIOR D'GUERRA). A BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE COLONEL SERVES AS ADVISOR TO THE ECUADOREAN AIR WAR ACADEMY IN QUITO, AND A COLONEL, TWO OTHER OFFICERS, AND TEN ENLISTED MEN INSTRUCT IN ELECTRONICS AT THE SALINAS AIR FORCE BASE. THREE MIDDLE-GRADE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE

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OFFICERS RECEIVE TRAINING IN BRAZIL EACH YEAR ON A GRANT BASIS FROM THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE. THE ECUADOREAN ARMY HAS PURCHASED 318 JEEPS FROM FORD'S WHOLLY-OWNED BRAZILIAN SUBSIDIARY. THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE OPERATES A MONTHLY MILITARY FLIGHT THROUGH QUITO AS PART OF THE COOPERATIVE MILITARY AIR MAIL SERVICE MOUNTED RECIPROCALLY BY VARIOUS HEMISPHERIC AIR FORCES (INCLUDING OUR OWN). THE COMMANDER OF THE BRAZILIAN NAVY, ADM. JOSE DE CARVALHO JORDAO, WAS TO HAVE VISITED HIS ECUADOREAN COUNTERPART IN EARLY APRIL, 1975, BUT THIS WAS POSTPONED BY CARVALHO'S ILLNESS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE TRIP WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE OFFER OF FURTHER NAVAL TRAINING FOR ECUADOR; THE BRAZILIANS ARE REPORTEDLY HELPING PREPARE THE ECUADOREAN NAVY TO RECEIVE ITS TWO SMALL SUBMARINES FROM WEST GERMANY.

5. STRATEGIC. BRAZILIAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN ECUADOR ARE LIKELY TO BE SLIGHT. WE ASSUME THEIR INTERESTS ARE MUCH GREATER IN PERU, BOLIVIA, AND CHILE, BUT SHOULD CONFLICT BREAK OUT IN THAT REGION, THERE MIGHT EASILY BE A SPILL-OVER EFFECT ON ECUADOR -- PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT THE PERUVIANS TURNED NORTH. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A 1941-42 WAR, ECUADOR LOST THE EASTERN HALF OF ITS TERRITORY TO PERU. THE RIO PROTOCOL OF 1942 CODIFIED THIS LOSS, AND BRAZIL IS ONE OF THE GUARANTORS OF THE PROTOCOL (AS IS THE US). THE ECUADOREANS HAVE SINCE DENOUNCED THE PROTOCOL, BUT HAVE MADE NO MOVE TO TAKE BACK THE TERRITORY; BRAZIL, PRESUMABLY, HAS NO STRONG FEELINGS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO, A BRAZILIAN TEAM CARRIED OUT AN AERIAL SURVEY IN A BRAZILIAN C-130 FOR A PROPOSED "INTEROCEANIC HIGHWAY" FROM BRAZIL TO ESMERALDAS, WHICH COULD BE USEFUL FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE TRANSPORT OF BRAZILIAN GOODS TO ECUADOR'S PACIFIC COAST FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT TO OTHER POINTS ON THE PACIFIC OR TRANS-PACIFIC LITTORAL. AT ONE POINT, THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY WAS REPORTEDLY STALLED BY HIGH INTEREST RATES THE BRAZILIANS WANTED ECUADOR TO PAY FOR ITS PORTION, BUT AS OF EARLY FEBRUARY, THE PROJECT APPEARED TO BE BACK ON THE TRACK. THE WINNING BY A BRAZILIAN FIRM OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE GUAYAQUIL-QUITO EXPRESSWAY MAY BE RELATED TO THIS LONG-TERM GOAL. WITH RESPECT TO CLANDESTINE ACTIVITY IN A GENERAL SENSE, ALTHOUGH

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THE BRAZILIANS ARE KNOWN TO ENGAGE IN COVERT ACTION IN A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES, WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF RECENT SUCH BRAZILIAN ACTIVITY IN

ECUADOR.

6. CULTURAL. SECOND IN SIZE AND SCOPE AFTER ITS MILITARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, IT AN ACTIVE BRAZILIAN CULTURAL PRESENCE, CONSISTING OF AN ON-GOING PROGRAM OF LANGUAGE CLASSES AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES REGULARLY ANNOUNCED AND AMPLY COVERED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. BRAZIL IS THE ONLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO HAVE ITS OWN CULTURAL COMPLEX HERE, WITH A 6,000 VOLUME LIBRARY (THE US CURRENTLY HAS NOTHING TO COMPARE WITH THIS), TRIMESTER COURSES IN PORTUGUESE, COURSES ON BRAZILIAN CULTURE AND CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES, PLUS GALLERY SPACE USED FOR THE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY LOCAL ECUADOREAN ARTISTS, GIVING THEM SOMETHING OF A LEG-UP IN THE QUITO ART WORLD. MORE OR LESS MONTHLY, THEIR "SALA DE ACTOS" IS THE SCENE OF A LECTURE WHICH NORMALLY ATTRACTS A COTERIE OF INFLUENTIAL INTELLECTUALS AND CIVIL AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS. ONE PROGRAM WHICH IS VERY EFFECTIVE FOR BRAZIL'S IMAGE, APYING IMMEDIATE DIVIDENDS WITHIN THE SMALL ECUADOREAN POLICY-MAKING COMMUNITY, IS THE ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN ECUADOR'S INSTITUTO DE ALTOS ESTUDIOS AND BRAZIL'S ESCOLA SUPERIOR D'GUERRA. LAST SEPTEMBER, 36 ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS TRAVELLED TO BRAZIL UNDER THIS EXCHANGE. THERE IS A PRESTIGIOUS BRAZILIAN SCHOOL (WHICH RUNS THROUGH 12TH GRADE) LOCATED NEXT TO THEIE EMBASSY IN ONE OF QUITO'S FASHIONABLE BOULEVARDS, ATTENDED BY SCIONS OF QUITO'S UPPER CLASS, OUTFITTED IN SEMI-MILITARY STYLE WITH KNEE-HIGH BOOTS, KHAKI UNIFORMS, AND GREEN KERCHIEFS. OF THE LATIN COUNTRIES, BRAZIL OFFERS THE SECOND HIGHEST NUMBER (AFTER ARGENTINA) OF GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO ECUADOREANS, AND GIVES THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF LOANS AND CREDITS. THEIR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS LARGE AND WELL-TARGETTED AT THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY, IN THE INSTITUTO DE ALTOS ESTUDIOS, AND IN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN VARIOUS FIELDS. THESE HAVE, IN THE PAST, BEEN USED FOR STUDIES IN COMMUNICATIONS, PETROLEUM AND MINING, ECONOMICS, SANITATION AND FORESTRY. IN
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ADDITION, VARIOUS BRAZILIAN MINISTRIES MAKE AVAILABLE GRANTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO THEIR ECUADOREAN COUNTERPARTS; FOR EXAMPLE, 10 ECUADOREAN ENGINEERS FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS HAVE JUST LEFT FOR A SIX MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM IN BRAZIL.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

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